

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
ACDA-07 /114 W

-----142309Z 071536 /15

R 140955Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2705
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5352

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PORG YO AG XF
SUBJECT: NACC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING: QUESTION OF NAM PRESENCE
AT MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, NEITHER INDIAN DRAFT ON MIDDLE EAST NOR
ORIGINAL SYRIAN ALTERNATIVE TEXT MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO ACTIVE NAM
ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE OR IN RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE
EAST ISSUE IN GENERAL. MEPC IS DROPPED FROM FINAL COMMUNIQUE
ENTIRELY.

2. WE HAVE COME ACCROSS TWO ECHOES OF THE NAM ROLE QUESTION,
HOWEVER, IN HIS SPEECH TO THE PLENARY, YUGOSLAV DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER MOJSOV PUSHED THE THEME. THE CONCLUDING SENTENCE OF
THE LENGTHY PARAGRAPH ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN HIS STATEMENT READS:
"OUR MEETING WILL ALSO AFFORD A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE WAYS
AND MODALITIES FOR A MORE DIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES IN THE PROCESS OF SOLVING THE CRISIS, INCLUDING THE
REALIZATION OF THE DECISION REACHED IN COLOMBO TO ESTABLISH A
COMMITTEE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST".
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(COMMENT: WHILE THE COLOMBO POLITICAL DECLARATION MAKES NO
REFERENCE TO SUCH A DECISION, THE SECOND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH
OF THE COLOMBO RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST SETS UP A
COMMITTEE TO FIND PRACTICAL MEANS OF ASSISTING THE ARAB COUNTRIES
AND PROPLES UNDER THE YOKE OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION"-- NOT EXACTLY
THE PROBLEM-SOLVING ROLE THE YUGOSLAVS SEE FOR IT.)

3. THIS SAME PREOCCUPATION FINDS VOICE EARLIER IN MOJSOV'S STATEMENT: "ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE PRESENCE OF THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, AND TO LIMIT ITS IMPACT ON THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES HAVE BECOME MORE INTENSIFIED."

4. WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A "NAM ROLE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS RAISED WITH ALGERIAN DELEGATE BENSID, HE SAID IT WAS NOT A NEW IDEA AND NOTED THAT A NAM MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE "ALREADY EXISTED". HE CONTINUED IN AN APPARENTLY OFF-HANDED WAY THAT "IT WAS POSSIBLE THE COMMITTEE MIGHT ASK TO ATTEND THE MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE," THEN HASTENED TO ADD THAT ALGERIA WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE FOR THAT PURPOSE BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT CONSIDER SUCH REPRESENTATION TO BE ADEQUATE IN VIEW OF ITS STATUS AS AN ARAB STATE.

5. COMMENT: BENSID'S REMARKS MAY INDICATE THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S EFFORTS HAVE PRODUCED AT LEAST CORRIDOR CONVERSATION, THE CONTINUING FAILURE OF THE ARAB PARTICIPANTS IN THE SUMMIT AND THE NACCFM TO PICK THE IDEA UP IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE TEXTS, HOWEVER, REVEALS THEIR RESISTANCE TO THE PROPOSAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, POLICIES, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE05352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-0589
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770457/aaaabxor.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c03a23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2806914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECT: NACC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING: QUESTION OF NAM PRESENCE AT MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, YO, AG, XF, NACC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c03a23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009